

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-27 **(Previously Canceled).**

28. **(Previously Canceled).**

29. **(Currently Amended)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the step of hydraulically reopening the lifting valve at least once after a mechanical lifting phase performed by the cam has ceased, wherein a hydraulic opening force acting on the lifting valve is larger than a closing force acting on the lifting valve.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the steps of alternately mechanically and hydraulically determining lifts of subsequent charge exchange processes, wherein in hydraulically determined lifts a hydraulic opening force acting on the lifting valve is larger than a closing force acting on the lifting valve.

31-34. **(Previously Canceled).**